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The Observer

By the students For the students

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Inaugural track meet held at Recreation Sports Complex

Austin Lane
Staff Reporter

The CWU Track and Field team had their first home meet at the new Recreation Sports Complex last weekend. Multiple Wildcats got first place in their respective events as they prepare for the Mount Sac Invitational and later this week.

One athlete that stood out was HarLee Ortega. Ortega earned GNAC Field Athlete of the Week for her performances last weekend. She won the high jump by more than three inches and also posted the second best score in the event in the GNAC so far this season. Ortega also won the long jump event, got third in the 100-meter hurdles and placed sixth in the shot put.

Outside of Ortega, the Wildcats had a slew of first place finishes, including Madison Child and Trevor Allen in the 1,500-meter, Lily Tyrrell and Harismran Singh in the 800-meter, Erykah Weems in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash, Noelia Juarez in the 400-meter, Brooke Williams in the triple jump, Halle Irvine in the pole vault and Samantha La Rue in the shot put and hammer throw.

Ellensburg's spring atmosphere was highlighted during the meet, with winds blowing as high as 23 mph and a light sprinkle of rain throughout until skies cleared near the end of the meet.

The only teams that traveled to compete in the event were Spokane Community College and Northwest University. Last week, head coach Kevin Adkisson told The Observer he hoped "word would spread quickly" about CWU having a new track and field complex for GNAC teams to compete at.

This week the team travels to Long Beach, California for the Mt. Sac Multi-Events and the Azusa/Long Beach State Invite April 17-20.

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Dolleman and Washington win primary: ready for general election

Photos courtesy of the Publicity Center



Brendan Dolleman



Jasmine Washington

Nick Tucker
Senior Sports Reporter

Jasmine Washington and Brendan Dolleman remain as candidates for ASCWU President after primary voting on April 9. Washington led the election results with 302 votes making up 37.8 percent of the total number of voters, closely followed by Dolleman with 286 votes and 35.8 percent of voters. Candidates Alejandro Alcantar and Dominic Choi roughly split the remaining 26.5 percent of voters between them.

Both candidates Washington and Dolleman report feeling confident after the primaries, but notice the relatively low amount of students that are voting

in ASCWU elections.

A total of 800 votes were casted out of the nearly 12,000 enrolled students at CWU, with only about 0.6 percent of CWU students voting.

"I know that we have the opportunity to reach out to more students to get our voting rates up and make sure that more students' all students' voices are being heard," Washington said.

According to Dolleman, one problem could be a lack of information about the election being provided to students. Because of this, his campaign is trying many different strategies to get students to vote, most notably posters referring to popular memes spread across campus.

"Percentage-wise not a lot of students vote on campus, and the number-one question I got coming in to primaries was 'how do you vote,' and the second question I got was 'oh, this isn't the general [election]?' " Dolleman said.

However, the problem may be simply that finding information on elections, even where to vote can be difficult. Voting results aren't obviously posted anywhere on the ASCWU website, and there doesn't seem to be a link to online voting.

Voting for the general election will take place on April 25 online and in the SURC from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m.

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Volunteer opportunities tie students to community

Mary Park
Staff Reporter

Making new friends, learning a new skill and giving back to the community are some of the benefits that CWU students say they received from volunteering, either on campus or in their hometowns.

Harry Engel, a fifth-year majoring in accounting and finance, was among those who have benefited.

"I learned to have a greater apprecia-

tion of the environment around Yakima and Ellensburg," Engel said.

Engel said he volunteered for the Yakima River Cleanup several times over the years, "picking up trash, moving wood and debris."

At CWU, the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) and the Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) are some of the hubs on campus that offer various volunteer opportunities.

Food banks, blood drives, Earth Month programs and the Internation-

al Café are some of the events that the CLCE helps to organize.

Kristin Kensrud is a senior double majoring in accounting and leadership and in management. Kensrud is also a program leader at CLCE.

"There are so many broad opportunities," Kensrud said. "Kind of blended in to help connect with different students that you normally wouldn't, that are outside of your major, outside of your friend group."

Kensrud added that CLCE is also a place that offers workshops to help de-

velop and hone leadership skills.

Kensrud said that before she came to CWU, she first got introduced to the CLCE through the Experience Leadership Project (ELP).

ELP is a four-day camping trip in the Cascade Mountains that helps incoming first-year and transfer students develop a support network with CWU and faculty members and learn leadership skills.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Dolleman



Photo Courtesy of Brendan Dolleman

Washington



Photo Courtesy of Jasmin Washington

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Dolleman's campaign has made commitments to three main issues he has seen on campus: parking, entertainment for students and fostering transparent and trusting relations between the students and CWU.

"I've already met with Central's Chief of Police and we had a conversation about possible plans and solutions to solve parking," Dolleman said. "Parking is an interesting issue, as tuition and other fees can't be used to pay for a new parking lot, for example, because it's not a capital investment."

A capital investment is anything which directly brings back money invested, such as new residence halls or improvements to the SURC. Parking it-

self doesn't generate revenue or entice students to enroll at CWU so it isn't counted as a capital investment.

Dolleman hopes to help CWU's retention rates and he wants to do it through improving the entertainment options for students in Ellensburg. He referenced the loss of Rodeo Bowl six years ago, and is looking into options for possibly bringing a bowling alley back. Ideas include buying Rodeo Bowl's former location, or use the former New York Teriyaki building which was bought by CWU last May.

After the active shooter false alarm last quarter and issues with snow, President Gaudino spoke on 88.1 The Burg to explain some of CWU's decision making processes. Dolleman cited this as an example of transparency that he would like to replicate more of if he were to be elected as president.

Washington was the president of CWU's Black Student Union for two consecutive years. She currently works at the Wellness Center as a sexual health and healthy relationships peer health educator which, according to her, is a position where she has worked on over 30 programs.

Washington said that her campaign is focused around making realistic promises with plans to back them up, a theme that can be found in her slogan: "I'm not selling change, I'm implementing it."

"I think oftentimes when people start their campaigning and they get into positions of power, they often forget those promises that they said they were going to keep," Washington said. "Anything that I have stated, I know that there is plan set out for me to be able to do that."

One of those plans is for a referral

plan with the goal of improving CWU's retention rates which have been on a downward trend for multiple years. Washington explained that how this system would work is that a student with a financial hold on their account would be sent an email by the financial aid department with advice and/or resources to help the student out of the situation they are in. She says this might include providing resources to help with mental health or academic issues.

Her experience in the Wellness Center has gotten her involved with providing tampons and other menstrual products in the public restrooms on campus, a project she hopes to complete as ASCWU President.

"The same way we provide condoms in the wellness center we should be providing female hygiene products," Washington said.

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Email: cwuobserveradviserFS@gmail.com

Advertising: Cait Dalton

Email: caitilin.dalton@cwu.edu

Central Washington University

400 East University Way

Lind Hall 109

Ellensburg, WA 98926

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Pedaling past parking passes

Parking passes can be expensive for students, instead of purchasing passes and looking for parking, students are biking to class. This not only saves money but is a way to get exercise



Bike racks can be found full around campus. Pictured above are multiple bikes outside of the 1891 Bistro. Students can register their bikes with CWU police to help track them down if they are ever stolen.

Dez Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

Students are parking their cars and riding their bikes to campus now that the weather is improving. With how much money it can save and the easier it is to get to class, the trend seems likely to continue. Junior psychology major Josiah Williams has been riding his bike to school since his freshman year.

“My friends are always talking about how hard it is to find parking. I’ve never had to worry about that, thankfully,” Williams said. “I’m always able to park closer to the building than anyone.”

Parking permits for 2018-19 cost \$106 per quarter, \$30 per quarter for motorcycles. Students looking for a bargain can buy a permit for the entire year for \$224. The daily parking rate is \$6 for 24 hours. Without gas money included, the savings are nearly \$1,000 over four years.

There are some safety precautions students are encouraged to follow. Andy Bayne, sergeant for the CWU Police Department said it all starts with getting your bike registered.

“If you’re going to bring your bike [to campus], we have a registration program that you can register it with us. In turn we can add it to a database so that if something gets stolen, we can try to recover it,” Bayne said. “We’ve actually found a couple bikes that were registered in [1999] and found the owner.”

Bike registration can be done at the parking services office or online. A

sticker is then printed and placed on the bike. While riding on the street or sidewalk, Bayne said students must follow the regulations on both pathways.

“When you’re in the street, you’re a

car. You have to adhere to rules of the road. When you’re on the sidewalk, you’re a pedestrian. That doesn’t mean that you just get to tell people to get out of your way or hit people,” Bayne said.

In addition to saving money, bike riding also helps Williams exercise. The full body workout allows him to get into shape without taking him away from his academics. With classes starting at 9 a.m. and homework keeping him up late, finding time for the gym can be hard.

“That’s the main thing for me, just being able to get some cardio in. I’m pretty tired by the time I ride home but it’s definitely worth it,” Williams said.

The most heavily congested pathways during the day are the mall pathways

“

My friends are always talking about how hard it is to find parking. I’ve never had to worry about that, thankfully.

Josiah Williams, CWU student

”

that connect each side of campus cutting through the middle. It has a 10 mph speed limit, and is something junior Synove Carlson sees as dangerous when she’s riding her bike throughout the week.

“I noticed a lot of people on campus don’t wear helmets which is really dangerous,” Carlson said. “My sister, who’s a nurse, says their hospital gets a lot of people with bad head injuries from riding without a helmet.”

Bayne said most of his day involves walking the mall at peak transition hours reminding students to ride safe.

“I like to let students know that it’s probably not a good idea to ride 100 miles an hour down the mall,” Bayne said.



A parking pass can cost \$224 a year. Riding a bike on campus is free. Some students have turned to taking a bike to class in order to save money.

Editor: Jack Belcher

Budgeting saves big bucks

Nick Tucker
Senior News Reporter

Natalie Melendez, a senior who works for 88.1 The Burg, said she taught herself how to budget after nearly becoming homeless when her father lost his business during the recession in 2008. For her, budgeting is a lifelong skill that has helped to create financial stability in her life now and hopefully going into the future.

“People say that money doesn’t rule the world, but it totally does, we need money to survive,” Melendez said. “I think it’s good, especially now while we might not be totally independent, to know how to budget. It’s so strenuous to always be living paycheck to paycheck.”

Not every student had Melendez’s difficult situation to teach them the value of budgeting. Students who want to learn about budgeting can speak to professors in the economics department like accounting professor Dr. Steven Hawkins and personal financial planning professor Steele Campbelle.

The first thing Campbelle says students should do when they are beginning to design a budget is to know themselves. His advice is to ask yourself if you are the type of person who is going to stick to a budget and if you are going to be able to remember to stick to the rules that you gave yourself. If you don’t think you are going to be able to adhere strictly to those

rules, Campbelle advises you to build more flexibility into your budget. According to Hawkins, even though a

“For one, it creates good habits. It’s a good time, in school, while you’re learning, while you have less money,” Hawkins

you will ultimately have more flexibility and more freedom. You’ll be able to manage your money rather than having your money manage you.”

Hawkins said that he started budgeting when he was eight years old to save up for a mountain bike. He did what many people do when they start budgeting, he made an excel spreadsheet and logged his expenses and income, neither of which he had much of at eight years old. Part of these habits were instilled in him by his father, who told him, “If you spend the first half of your life living like most people won’t, you can spend the second half of your life living like most people can’t.”

Campbelle thinks that most students don’t make and stick to a budget because it sacrifices some of the newly-found flexibility that adult life comes with.

“If by the end of the month, I don’t have any more money to go hang out with friends, then I have to tell myself ‘no,’ I have to make decisions that I don’t want to make,” Campbelle said. “I think people don’t do it because they’re worried that they’re going to make a rule and immediately break it.”

Both professors Hawkins and Campbelle insist that the most important part of budgeting is just to start doing it and get better along the way.

“Be okay with not doing well your first time around. Just like everything else, budgeting, sticking to a budget takes practice,” Campbelle said.



Graphic by Will Yi

lot of students might be hesitant to make a budget, doing so will help them greatly in the long run.

said. “If you’ve learned how to manage your income and budget when it’s harder, when you continue those practices

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Editor: Cassandra Hays



Photos by Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Students participate in the Olmstead Place State Park cleanup, one of several cleanups planned this month. In addition to Earth Week, there will be several events focused on sustainability and eco-friendly habits around campus during April, which is widely known as Earth Month. A downtown cleanup, Yakima River cleanup and an Earth Day Family Festival are among the events happening around the community.

Earth Week will focus on campus sustainability

Cassandra Hays

Scene Editor

Sponsored by the Environmental Club, CWU Sustainability Council and CWU Operations, Earth Week is being put on from April 15 to 19. The purpose of the week is to teach students how to live eco-friendly as well as to start a conversation about sustainability on campus.

Each day of the week is themed to focus on a certain topic. Monday's theme is "reuse." According to Alina Stuckey, member of the Environmental Club, there will be a demonstration to teach students how they can live plastic-free. Stuckey said the Nutrition Club will discuss reducing food waste as well as demonstrating how to repurpose an old t-shirt by turning it into a reusable shopping tote.

Tuesday's focus is on "reducing," and will include a presentation on urban farming given by Kate Dougherty, farm and sustainability manager at the Wildcat Neighborhood Farm located off of Alder street. Wednesday is going to cover "Operations Earth Day," where students will learn about food waste and environmental justice. There will be a sustainable investments and divestment panel in SURC 135 on Thursday. According to Stuckey, the panel will be a Q&A format.

The week will come to an end with Friday's interpretive nature walk, which will take place at Olmstead Place State Park and focus on nature appreciation and climate change awareness.

Malena Niece, vice president of the Environmental Club, said this is the first year the club has put on Earth Week. Niece hopes to see interest in the events grow in the coming years.

The Environmental Club stays active on campus and in the community in an effort to make CWU more sustainable. According to Taylor Kennedy, senator of the Environmental Club, the club was started by environmental science majors but has grown to include students of all majors who have an interest in sustainability.

"Our club has really turned into almost like an activism group," Kennedy said. "We try and pick up anything

that we can to make campus more sustainable, because Ellensburg and [CWU] is really not sustainable at all compared to what it could be."

Stuckey said sustainability means something different to everyone. She said she personally believes social factors play a significant part in sustainability.

"To me, it means respecting Earth's boundaries and environmental limits so that we can have a thriving future, and that for me involves social justice issues, so respecting communities of color that are affected the most," Stuckey said.

Niece said the Environmental Club focuses on more environmentally based issues. The club has specific goals they want to achieve each year. The goals mainly focus on resource management and being eco-friendly, in addition to social justice issues and people who are being affected by the changing environment.

"I think right now the club is really focused on the fundamentals of environmentalism because the campus itself is so behind on the sustainability aspect, so we're just trying to push for these basic things that other schools have done a long time ago," Stuckey said.

CWU could be making several changes to become a more sustainable campus, including proper recycling, waste management, reducing single-use plastics in dining areas and divestment efforts, according to Stuckey.

Stuckey said Earth Week's focus

on sustainability is important because it is a universal issue that everyone should care about. She added that weather trends such as wildfires, flooding, freezes in the Midwest and large scale hurricanes show that the planet is already being negatively affected.

"It affects everyone one way or another," Stuckey said. "So I think that

it's definitely something we should all care about because

we're all being affected and it will only get worse."

Kennedy emphasized that the lack of interest in sustainability efforts is part of what contributes to the negative effects on the environment. She said

people may not realize the severity of the situation because it has always been that way.

"I personally am really scared of the normalcy of that coming with it. The pollution that we already have is kind of standard to us, right? We're born into it," Kennedy said. "I mean, no one would really know that Ellensburg has super bad air quality, but we do and we're just used to it. So eventually it will get worse and worse...and I don't even know if we'll really remember what it was like to not have it because we're so separated from it. Maybe sustainability and preaching that kind of thing is just kind of like a remembrance of what things used to be, what things could be."

Students could take several steps to live a more eco-friendly lifestyle. Consumerism plays an important role, ac-

cording to Kennedy. She said certain brands may not have the most eco-friendly practices, and encourages people to do their research before buying.

"Honestly, just watch what you buy," Kennedy said. "We have the ultimate power as consumers."

Niece said that buying used clothing is one way to make a positive impact. Clothing cannot be recycled, so buying used clothing allows the garments to be used or repurposed for a longer period of time.

"I take pride in shopping at secondhand stores," Niece said. "It's not so much what you wear, but where you're getting it from. I wouldn't say everything I wear doesn't have microplastics in it, but someone already bought it so it's not as bad as buying it brand new."

Stuckey added that buying new clothing can have a negative impact due to the production process surrounding most clothing brands. The process uses a significant amount of water and generates air pollution, in addition to the typically-poor working conditions that are common practice in many clothing factories and distributors. Stuckey said that buying items new is an idea that has always been prevalent in society.

"We are constantly told we need to buy the new things...and I think we need to step back from that and be like, 'this is a toxic culture that we are born into' and we need to kind of reject it, even if it's [in] minor ways," Stuckey said.

Stuckey adds that using renewable sources of energy and taking public transportation, walking or biking to class are other ways for people to reduce their impact on the environment.

In addition to Earth Week, the Environmental Club will be partnering with the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement to host several cleanups this month at Olmstead Place State Park, the Yakima River and downtown Ellensburg.

The Environmental Club encourages people to attend the Earth Week events and learn about sustainability as it pertains to CWU.



Graphic by Will Yi

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Programs connect students to campus community

Continued from Page 1

"The ELP was a little nerve-wracking, but it definitely stretched [me]," Kensrud said. "And I felt more equipped as a first-

year student."

CLCE also offers more extended programs like the annual Cross Cultural Leadership Program (CCLP), which brings students together in a year-long cohort to explore the relationship between culture and leadership.

Kensrud said her cohort travelled to New Orleans to practice what they had learned as a conclusion to the program.

"[The ELP and the CCLP] were pretty transformational to my experience at Central," she said. "And attending the community engagement events, it's really cool to see Central come together and support our community and give back to them."

The DEC is located in room 101 in Black Hall. The center provides programs and events with a focus on topics such as diversity, cultural identities and minority issues.

Thao Luu is a senior in computer science and carries out public relations and marketing for the DEC.

"We try really hard to create a safe space [here]," Luu said. "It's where people can just hang out."

Luu said she first heard about the DEC as a freshman and started volunteering at events such as Haru Matsuri and PolyFest.

"It was a good

step away from my major, to do something extracurricular that's [different]," Luu said. "And one of the perks was attending the event and meeting people who were also active and cared about the same issues that I cared about."

Paige Hall is a sophomore majoring in family and child life, with a minor in African and black studies. She is a program coordinator at the DEC.

Hall said when she was a freshman, she didn't know anyone or the resources on campus.

"I knew where I felt welcomed, and who was a friendly face to see," Hall said. "And [the DEC] was a very welcoming environment, very positive and open and friendly."

Hall said that last year, she had to file volunteer hours when she was a treasurer of the Black Student Union (BSU), and she saw an opportunity at the DEC.

"It was very fun, it didn't seem like it was work," Hall said. "It was more like hanging out, getting to know people."

But at first, Hall said, she felt shy and scared.

"It takes a lot of courage to get out of your comfort zone, because you're in a very new environment, but I'd say just go for it," Hall said. "That's what worked for me... It opened a bunch of new doors."

Luu said that knowing about resources are integral to the wellbeing of college students, especially for someone entering a new space.

"A lot of times, people say you go to college for school, yes, but you also need a foundation to support you throughout school," Luu said.



Cassandra Hays/The Observer

The Diversity and Equity Center is located in room 101 in Black Hall. One of the purposes for the center is to create a safe space for students to socialize and relax before, after and between classes.

Funk Club teaches about 1970s culture, music

Emma Johnson

Staff Reporter

Hippies, bell bottom jeans, the Vietnam War and an era chock full of music. The 1970s was a decade that produced many different styles of music, which some students at CWU are now learning more about.

Student Jake Thomas McLaughlin started Funk Club because of his love and interest for the 1970s and funk music, but beyond that he also enjoys the fashion and other aspects of the decade. Funk music is a type of music that came out of the 1970s that stemmed from African-American communities, and is a mixture of different types of music that make it easy to dance to.

McLaughlin spends the club meetings talking about the 1970s and more specifically funk music and the history of funk music. The genre stems from the civil rights movement era and the racial injustices that occurred during the time.

"We have a big teaching session on the 1970s and how funk and soul music brought people together in times of segregation," Jeremiah Williams, an officer of the club, said.

During the meetings, the club members learn about both a funk song and album of the week, as well as the artists that created the music and their importance to the genre. McLaughlin teaches a lesson via 30-40 minute documentaries on topics involving social issues that coincided with funk music during the club meetings. Afterwards, they discuss the content.



Bram Wiggins/The Observer

Members of Funk Club learn about a funk song and phrase of the week, in addition to the social issues that took place during the 1970s and their effect on the music of the era. The club meets each Wednesday in Black Hall 101 at 5 p.m.

Bob Hickey, a geography professor at CWU and the advisor for the club, lived through the 1970s.

"I am the only person in the room who listened to the music when it came out," Hickey said.

At the end of each meeting, the club has a soul train. This lets all of the club members get up and dance to the music they learned about during the meeting, in addition to other music. Some examples of artists the club has talked about so far are Isaac Hayes,

Earth, Wind and Fire and The O'Jays. Williams said funk music is what helped keep black people in the 1970s empowered during hard times. Funk club and the music today is still relevant because of the racial issues that people still have to face, Williams said. The club sheds light on the power of the music and message. A song Williams said stood out is "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," and his favorite lyrics in the song are just that. The James Brown song is an example

of the type of lyrics that were produced in 1970s funk. The club meetings are less for academic purposes, and are for people who just want to come and discuss an era, what came of the 1970s for social justice issues and how those who had a voice in the African-American community stood up to injustice.

Funk Club meetings are held in room 150 in Black Hall on Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

"We just want you to come and have a good time," Williams said.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

420: The Black Friday for a local cannabis dispensary



Photos by Cassandra Hays/The Observer

Cannabis Central, located at 1514 W University Way, is one of three dispensaries in Ellensburg. In celebration of 420, Cannabis Central will be offering discounts on their products for three days on the weekend of April 20.

Sean Quinn
Staff Reporter

April 20 is not just a random day in the year. The date is unofficially the national holiday for cannabis. Unlike holidays like Christmas or Easter, this holiday is part of a growing non-traditional counterculture. Even in a smaller, more conservative, town like Ellensburg the green plant will be smoked, dabbed, applied topically, cooked, you name it... in honor of the drug. Although this year the holiday falls on the day before Easter Sunday, one local business still believes the turnout will be better compared to the other 364 days.

There are many supposed origin stories to who coined the term "420." Rob Hendrix, owner of Cannabis Central in Ellensburg, believes the most viable story involves the Los Angeles Police Department. He believes in the 1940s they had a police code "420" to classify a marijuana-involved crime. However, according to Snopes.com, the most accepted coining of the term stems from a clique of high school students from California in 1971. They referred to themselves as "The Waldos" and would meet at a wall close to their high school at 4:20 p.m. Although there isn't a universally accepted history regarding the celebration, the day draws thousands in attendance at festivals such as Hemp Fest in Seattle, or the Mile High 420 Festival in Denver, according to Seattle Southside and the Denver Post.

Despite the smaller population, three Ellensburg dispensaries draw more business than usual on the once-a-year event. Cannabis Central plans to hold deals for three days in honor of the holiday.

"The day is fun. There's a lot of excitement, there's specials. Everybody's dialed in. We'll have two different vendors coming in," Hendrix said.

"[It's] like Black Friday for weed. It's difficult, but it's a fun day. It's the fastest work day you've ever had," Cannabis Central's Purchasing and Product Manager Margaux Massey said.

This year's 420 celebration, normally a day for relaxation and "lighting up" for CWU student Brooke Kuehn, is unfortunately timed. Because the day falls a day before Easter, the frequent user of

the product will not be taking part in the festivities this year.

"If I was going to stay in Ellensburg, I would go hang out with my friends and get super high. And laugh and watch movies and eat," Kuehn said.

Kuehn will be spending the weekend with her family on the west side instead. She described how her mom's rough upbringing pressures her to not behave similarly to other weed-smokers her mother has known.

"I don't want them to think any less of me," Kuehn said.

In her everyday life, Kuehn is an avid user of cannabis. She firmly believes that cannabis helps her recover from hangovers, migraine headaches, upset stomach and brightens her mood.

"It just makes you laugh and enjoy [life]. I know people [say] you don't need weed to have a fun time, but it makes it more fun," Kuehn said.

However, in a sentiment similarly shared by the owner and manager of Cannabis Central, Kuehn believes not everyone will have the same experience with weed.

"Other people get different experiences with what kind of weed they smoke, but I don't," Kuehn said. "Whatever kind of weed you give to me, I will smoke it."

CWU student Emilio Valderas will likely only be celebrating 420 if invited by his joint-lighting friends. While he rarely smokes by himself, he appreciates the social experience it can provide.

"I think smoking in the first place is such a socialized thing," Valderas said. "It's kind of awkward when you're just by yourself. You at least want to have one other person."

Without the shared bonding experience, Valderas said it's not worth it to celebrate alone. He also acknowledges money as another primary reason for his lack of desire to partake in the festivities.

"Just the main thing is money. I don't have money for this. I can't buy it even if I wanted to," Valderas said.

At Cannabis Central, the upcoming holiday is fun for people like Massey and Hendrix because they have a broad range of customers, not just CWU students.

"We actually did a very informal study over a period of a week [in 2016] trying to make notations of people's ages, and

the average age was somewhere between 40 and 41," Hendrix said.

Hendrix said that many of his customers aren't just weed-smokers but also those seeking relief for ailments of all sorts. Cannabis Central sells both recreational and medicinal cannabis. Their customers come to purchase not just joints or edibles, but also topical ointments used as a form of pain relief.

Hendrix strongly believes in the power of cannabis not only as a popular smokable plant but in the physiological benefits as well. The former car businessman turned cannabis business owner opened Cannabis Central five years ago. Having had numerous family members alongside himself suffer from cancer, he believes that the drug has done wonders in helping people with cancer treatment.

"I'm not saying we can treat it. But if we can help a little bit...so you can stick with the treatment, that you don't have to live with your head in the toilet...well then God dang it I'm gratified we can do something like that. It makes it all worthwhile," Hendrix said.

Massey said she has seen the medicinal benefits in front of her very own eyes. She's worked at the dispensary as one of

their "budtenders" for almost five years now. Her husband works as a marijuana grower at Blue Rock Acres in Kittitas. She described stories about customers who went from suffering with cancer to believing they could fight it off. She's seen customers who have come in with a walker whom after taking CBD were moving with much more ability.

Massey stressed that not everyone will react the same way.

"Everybody's different. Strains can affect people different ways. The same strain could make me sleepy but make somebody else energetic," Massey said.

Whether it's for lighting up a joint or treating varying degrees of illnesses, some people throughout Ellensburg and even the greater Kittitas County will be celebrating 420. Initiative 502 legalized marijuana in Washington State in 2012. However, this law comes with certain restrictions: it is illegal to consume marijuana in public, you must be 21 or older to purchase marijuana from a state-licensed store and there are limits to how much marijuana you can possess. For more information about these laws, you can visit Washington state's liquor and cannabis board website.

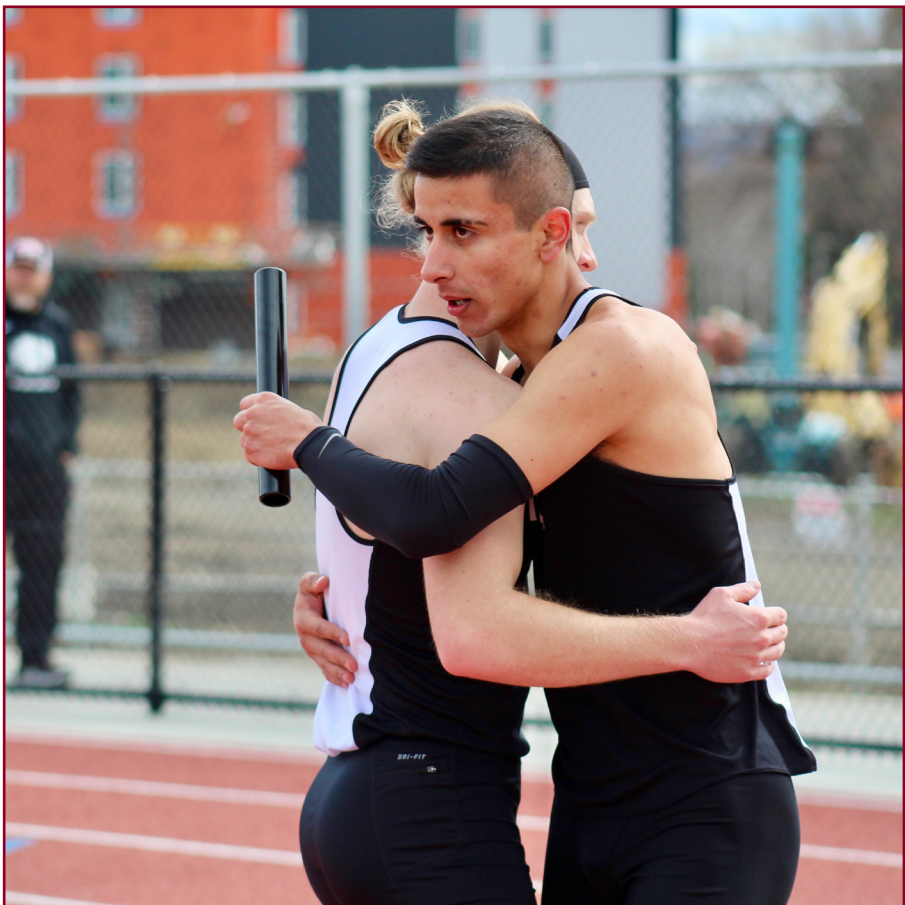


Photo illustration by Bram Wiggins/The Observer

CWU Track and Field at home in



Junior Noelia Juarez won the 400-meter race, but still felt like there was room to improve. “My start wasn’t as good as I wanted it to be... but overall we did good in this race,” Juarez said. Juarez also competed in the 200-meter race and the 4x400 relay, which she was the anchor for.



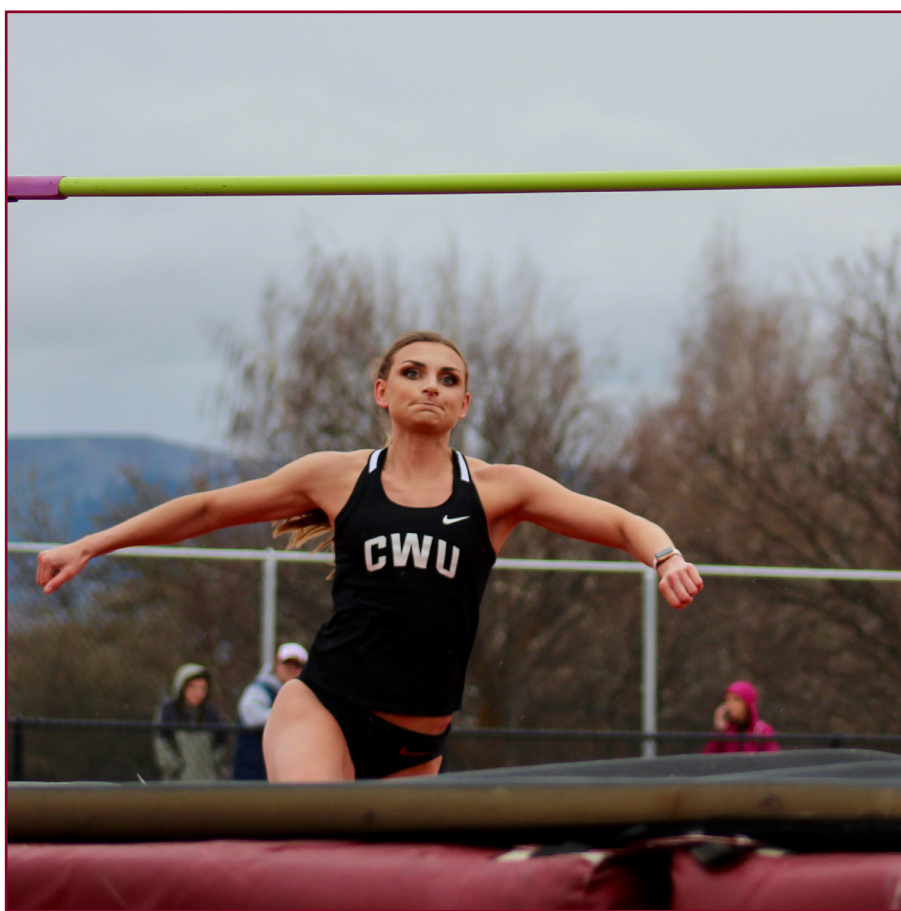
Junior Daniel Calderon came into the day focusing on winning the 400-meter run. He won with a time of 49.46 seconds. “That’s my main event,” Calderon said. “As of right now I’m trying to be a GNAC champ.” The 400-meter run is one of the most difficult races in track. It is one lap around the track, and the most competitive runners will sprint the whole way.



competes in first meet two years



Senior Trevaughn Scott took the 400-meter hurdles. “We’ve been working on a lot of things,” Scott said. “Right now we’re just building up the preparations for when we go to Cali at Azusa.” Scott competes in both the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles.



Senior HarLee Ortega usually does the heptathlon (seven different events) but only did four events at this home meet. “I have a heptathlon next week and this was really good practice and it’s good to get repetitions in for that,” Ortega said. At the meet, Ortega won the high jump.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

FIFA tournament brings virtual soccer to the SURC

Mary Park
Staff Reporter

Laughter and groans were heard late at night in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC).

On April 11 at 6 p.m., a FIFA 19 tournament took place in SURC 202. More than 20 people gathered to compete against each other and to watch others play.

Although some played for fun, for others, it was a battle for first place. The winner won an Intramurals Champ T-shirt and a copy of the FIFA 19 game.

There were three Xbox consoles connected to two projector screens and a TV, each on one side of the room. Competitors played simultaneously to help speed the process and limit the downtime between the rounds.

The competition started out with pool play where each player played three games. Then it proceeded into a single elimination bracket, and the top two players were chosen to compete against each other in the final round.

Trevor Schuler is a program assistant at CWU Recreation who oversaw the event. Schuler said this is the third time the tournament is being hosted on campus.

“It’s a great way to meet new people after sitting in the library all day,” Schuler said. “And it allows students who don’t own an Xbox to come and play.”

According to Schuler, the last FIFA

tournament was held in the SURC Theatre and used the large screen to connect an Xbox.

“People were too spread apart and the atmosphere was different,” he said.

Kiarie Gitome is a sophomore in computer science and is one of the competitors. He said his favorite players are Kylian Mbappé and Paul Pogba. He likes to pass the ball around quickly.

Gitome said he just started playing the game at the beginning of September and watched the last FIFA tournament that was held in the fall.

“This is the first time I’m competing in it,” Gitome said.

Badou Ngum, a sophomore studying biology and the champion from the last tournament returned to participate again. After winning a match 6-0, he sat

down to watch other players compete.

Ngum said he preferred to play for fun than to win. He said the event brings people together and gives him an oppor-

tunity to meet new people.

On April 18, a Rocket League tournament will be held at the same time, in the same room.



Students warm up before the FIFA 19 tournament on April 11. Players competed against one another for an Intramural Champ T-shirt and a copy of the FIFA 19 game. A Rocket League tournament will take place on April 18 at 6 p.m. in SURC 202.

Mary Park/The Observer

Africana and Black Studies | Art + Design | Asian Studies | Communication | English | History | Latino and Latin American Studies
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CAHO

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Editor: Hanson Lee

Respect the outdoors and pick up your trash

Kyle Wilkinson

Columnist

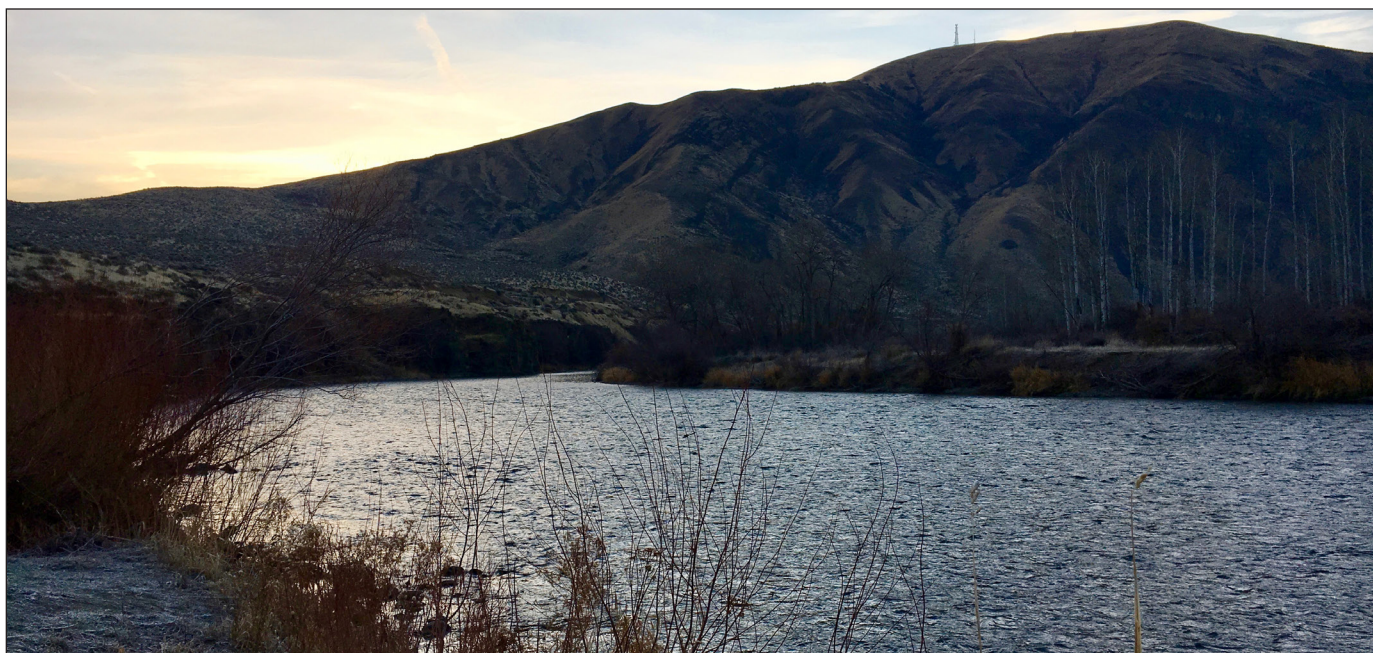
I hate seeing garbage outside when I'm enjoying nature. Whether I'm fishing on the Yakima River or hiking up Manastash Ridge, I can't help but notice how much garbage we produce and leave outside. I've found candy wrappers, hand warmers, pool noodles, shoes, beer cans, life jackets, remnants of helium balloons, tobacco cans and the list goes on. Even if we aren't the ones creating and leaving all of this trash, we aren't helping anything by leaving it there.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology, over 4.6 million pounds of litter was picked up across the state in 2018. That's a lot of garbage! This trash ends up in our rivers, lakes, oceans and is unsightly in our wild areas.

I love the Yakima River. I see others using the river for fishing, rafting, floating and swimming. We all like to use the resource so much, it tends to get "loved to death." We can't help but pollute the resources as a by-product of our time spent outdoors. Sure, someone might not intentionally drop their candy wrapper on the trail, or lose a soda can in the river, but that's still leaving behind trash.

What can you do?

Pick it up! I make it a priority to grab trash whenever I see it. I fill my pockets up on the trail and I stuff litter into the nooks and crannies of my backpack. I even have a five-gallon bucket in my boat that I put



Shawna Hettick/The Observer

Ellensburg and its surrounding areas provide a lot of great outdoor opportunities for students and community members alike. Picking up trash can help preserve this environment for years to come.

trash in. Every time I get out of the boat or see trash floating in the water, I pick it up. The last time I was on the river I filled that bucket. I know I can't get all of the trash out there by myself, but I know that by picking up even just one piece of garbage, I'm doing my part to preserve and protect the outdoors that I love so much.

This type of attitude rubs off on others. There have been times when I start picking up garbage along the river and have others join me without any invitation. Because they saw me picking up trash, they decided

to join in and help take care of the resource.

One way to help is by joining cleanup days and actively participating with organizations and groups that pick up garbage. CWU has held a Yakima River cleanup during Earth Month every year for the past 46 years. This year's event takes place on Saturday, April 20. Pre-registration is required through the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement and students take off from the SURC East Patio at 9 a.m. This is a great opportunity for students to get outside. Other organizations like Trout Un-

limited also hold river cleanups that focus on picking up garbage in and around the river to reduce its impact on fish and fishermen.

So the next time you're hiking up Umtanum Ridge, walking your dog at Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park or floating down the Yakima River, pick up that water bottle or that empty bag of chips and take it out with you. Every little piece counts and although one person might not be able to make much of an impact, a community of like-minded individuals can make a huge difference.

The political divide has to come to an end

Sean Quinn

Columnist

This opinion piece is catered to the American millennial of today. We owe it to the future success of this country to seek the end of the current political divide this country faces.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." Those were the words uttered by President Abraham Lincoln in 1858. Today, America is a house divided, by a wall. Not a wall President Trump is proposing, but a metaphorical wall, dividing liberals and conservatives across this nation across all age groups. Even today, centrists who used to watch from high atop have been pulled down from their perch to either pick a side or be mocked for it.

You see it all over social media such as Twitter or Reddit. Political jabs are rude remarks thrown everywhere. According to Google Trends, words like "libtard" have rarely been used before until after the 2016 presidential election.

Other keywords like "bigot," "snowflake" and "feminazi" have appeared in increasing numbers, not just online but in real life as well.

I stood in front of Black Hall on April 5 as one Patriot Prayer member was accused by a particularly rowdy student of being a "child molester." Later that night, Haley Adams, another Patriot Prayer member, constantly accused counter protesters of being Communists and Nazis. Constant shouting of insults, derogatory terms and other examples of political jargon filled the Ellensburg air the weekend of April 5. It saddened me deeply. Where have the

days of bipartisanship gone? Why can't we respect each other as fellow human beings rather than attack each other for our personal political beliefs?

“

The gaps on several sets of political values in particular, including measures of attitudes about the social safety net, race and immigration, have increased dramatically.

PEW Research Poll, 2017

”

Our country's growing distrust between its citizens, based partially on politics, has led to many individuals getting hurt or worse, killed. According to NBC News, In Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017, an individual whom a former teacher labeled as a white supremacist, ran over a counter protester with his car at a Unite the Right rally, killing her. According to TIME Magazine, in Berkeley, California that same year, Antifa, or anti-fascist, left-wing protestors assaulted police officers and other non-violent right-wing marchers. According to a PEW Research Poll in 2017, "the gaps on several sets of political values in particular, including

measures of attitudes about the social safety net, race and immigration, have increased dramatically."

It's unclear who is to blame for the growing violence and political discourse over the past several years. Democrats often point to the election of President Donald Trump. Republicans point back to President Barack Obama. It's a constant game of finger pointing, frantic shouting and even long-lasting friendships being broken.

I've grown up as someone who's seen the perspectives of both sides. My parents both share very liberal views as do my immediate siblings. We were raised in the greater Seattle area. However, my grandparents and extended family live in Plano, Texas and are all proud Republicans. I consider myself a proud independent; someone who shares perspectives on both ends of the political spectrum. I've seen firsthand the tension between family members with different political views at the dinner table.

What never works in any form of conflict is arguing or sincere disagreement. In an article for VeryWellMind.com, Elizabeth Scott, M.S., explains that techniques like being defensive, stonewalling, playing the blame game or even trying to "win" the argument does not resolve conflict. When met with a conflict over something trivial like politics, liberals and conservatives need to find some sort of common ground, even if it means making personal sacrifices.

While I believe in the concept of safe spaces as a form of eliminating all forms of discrimination, I do not believe all censorship of different political views should be tolerated. Just because some-

one does not believe in the rights for same-sex couples to get married does not make them a bigot or a homophobe. Just because someone says Black Lives Matter does not make them a racist against white people, or someone who hates the police. Censoring these views seeks to divide, rather than attempt to create a mutual understanding. Rather than dismiss different views, ask an opposing minded individual why they believe in what they believe in. Try to find compromise in your differing views.

While it may seem daunting, or even challenging to set aside your personal views, seeking to find common ground on issues like politics serves us better as a whole. In the Frontier Tavern last Saturday night, I sat down with many Patriot Prayer members and asked numerous questions about their livelihood. At the end, we toasted glasses and laughed about the events from the whole night. I do not agree with the beliefs of Patriot Prayer. I do not sympathize with their views in any form whatsoever.

But when you seek compassion in those whom you may feel lacks the most of it, you often find common ground and perhaps even become closer than you might have even imagined. I love my family deeply and I have not once ever shamed a family member for their differing political views. I urge my fellow millennials to be the generation that seeks an end to political-based discrimination and hope to see a day where bi-partisanship exists in our Congress again. Maybe even a day where vicious name-calling becomes a combined toast to friendship and health.

Editor: Hanson Lee

“Love, Death and Robots:” a unique dose of Netflix

TyYonna Kitchen
Columnist

“Love, Death & Robots” is an interesting show built on the concept of bringing different creators together. Each episode has a different animation style and director which sets audience members up for a new visual storyline every time. At times, Netflix played it fast and loose with the definitions of the words love, death and robots. However, the overall execution was pretty good. Some episodes were great, some were bad and the rest were forgettable or weird.

“Sonnie’s Edge”

This was a good idea. Fighters enter a ring after transferring their minds into their robotic monsters. The twist of the main character, Sonnie, being closer to an entity than a human being was unexpected. My only fault with this episode was the love aspect. It was more of an excuse to reveal the twist of Sonnie’s edge, which is fine. However, Netflix should stop killing gays. The end.

“Three Robots”

This was fun. There were cats and robots, what else can a girl ask for.

“The Witness”

The twist of the two main characters stuck in a loop of murdering one another and witnessing their own murders was cool. I wanted to love this, but watching a terrified woman run away from danger was hard to do since she was naked the whole time. Clothes aren’t a crime and nudity is not edgy. This was a shame since the story had so much potential.

“Suits”

I enjoyed the animation style in this episode. The story was simple and a little less memorable than some of the more powerful episodes, but still fun. I’ve always wanted to see farmers in robot suits versus hordes of aliens and Netflix made that dream come true.

“Sucker of Souls”

This story followed an expedition into a cave. The characters find a monster that is another take on the dracula creature. It was bad and pointless. I didn’t want this. Dear Netflix, please delete this useless episode.

“When the Yogurt Took Over”

The title of this episode paints a pretty clear picture. I learned about what would happen if yogurt ever took over. Why yogurt? Just because? Alrighty then.

“Beyond the Aquila Rift”

This episode was clearly inspired by bad decision making. Never take the red pill. Stay in your simulations, kids.

“Good Hunting”

This episode could have used less showing and more telling. There were graphic scenes of sexual assault and abuse that I could have done without, but the actual story was pretty creative.

“The Dump”

Who doesn’t love a good dog-like pile of trash? Me, I didn’t love or even like this episode. There was no real point made in the story. There wasn’t even a single robot, just a lot of garbage.

“Shape-Shifters”

Werewolves fight for a military that hates them. The best friend of the main

character was slaughtered because war happens. Then the bad werewolves were killed by the trusty main character. He walks off into the sunset with the remains of his buddy’s carcass and then it’s over. Still a better love story than “Twilight.”

“Helping Hand”

The main character pulls off her arm in order to save her own life. Space, anti-gravity, excitement, yay. The title of the episode is, of course, the best part and should be given a one-handed round of applause.

“Fish Night”

I’m going to be completely honest. I do not remember most of this episode. Two men get stranded in a desert, then some pretty animations and beyond that, I have no clue. Not much about this episode was good or bad, but it exists.

“Lucky 13”

I loved this episode and not just because

of my undying appreciation for anything that Samira Wiley does. Wiley’s character captains a ship that is seemingly cursed, but the two work well together and share a mutual respect and love for one another. Love can extend to so many subjects without becoming cliché and this episode did this well. The sentence of a machine being conveyed without the ship speaking or becoming cartoonish was also refreshing.

“Zima Blue”

Sure, why not. The animation style was not my favorite, but I did like the story from start to finish. A reporter goes to interview a now deity like artist, Zima. He took over the world after going under many enhancing surgeries and painting the same color over and over again in different shapes. There is also a point to be made that anytime a confusing plot hole is covered up with “and then he became a pool cleaner” I can’t help but smile. It was truly one of the better of the “meh” episodes.

“Blindspot”

Did I watch this? Sure. Do I remember this? Nope, not at all.

“Ice Age”

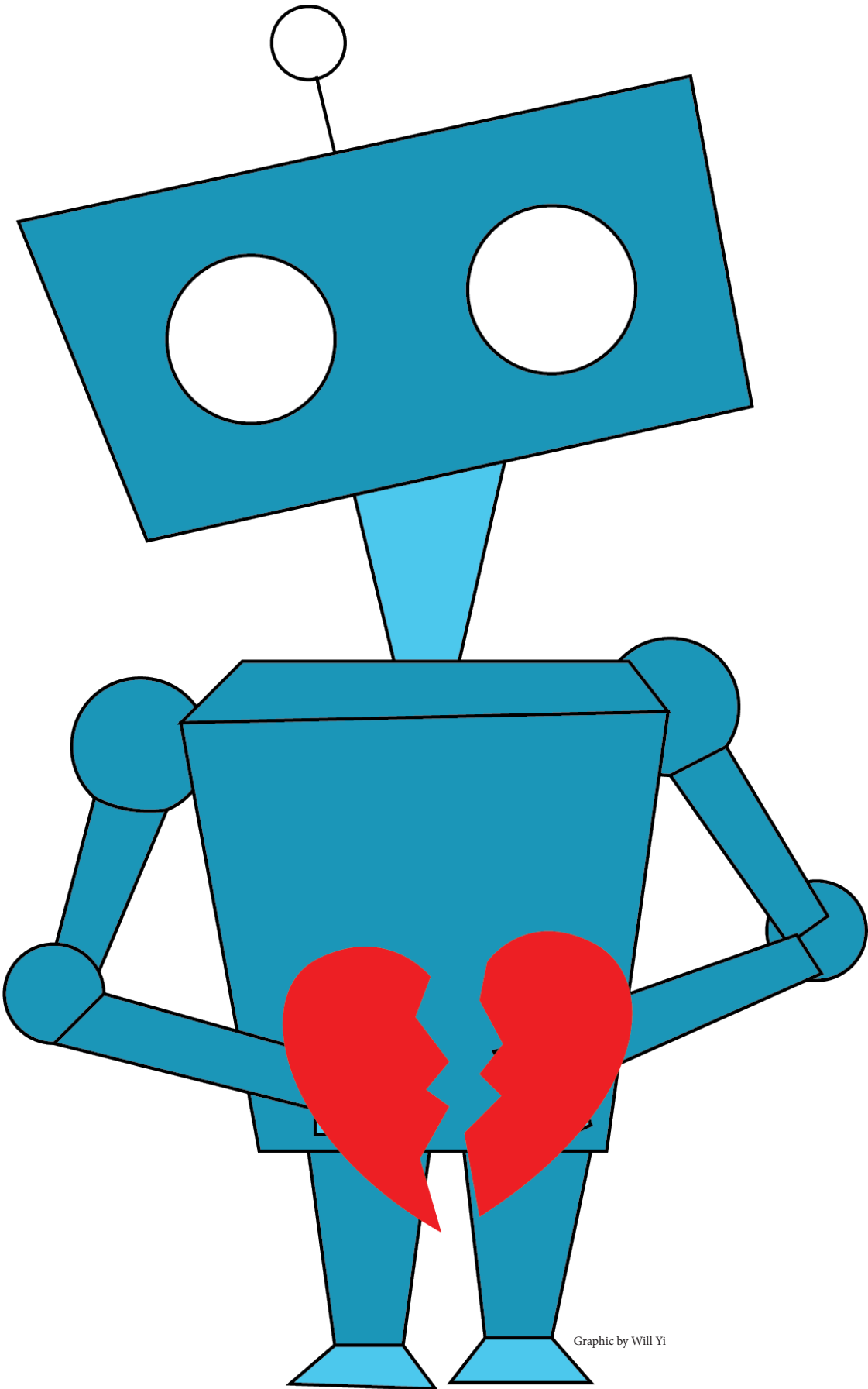
Inside of a couple’s freezer was an ever-evolving civilization. The story never really picks up after the civilization is discovered. A couple watches their freezer for over 20 minutes. I watched them watch a freezer for over 20 minutes. What a waste of time. I leave you with this: #FreezerBurn

“Alternate Histories”

It happened and I wasn’t upset once it ended.

“The Secret War”

Everyone dies except for the stupid string-instrument-playing son of the main character. The animation was beautiful and I didn’t mind the robotless storyline.



Graphic by Will Yi

Editor: Nick Jahnke

Cheer tryouts held for 2019-20 team

Byrce Weedman
Senior Sports Reporter

CWU was looking for the next team of cheerleaders for the 2019-20 season. Head cheerleading coach Kelsey Stephens has found them. There were around 30 students that tried out and 11 returners including Amelia Elliot, Captain Kyra Nelson and team Captain Madisen Baydo.

Cheerleaders perform at every home game for football and basketball rain or shine, according to fourth year coach Kelsey Stephens. Stephens was a gymnast and a coach for a team in Portland, Oregon and also coached at a gym in Hawaii for years. She found this job with CWU while teaching cheer privately when she was told about the job. Stephens said she has loved being a huge part of this team and being there for the girls. Stephens is an alumnus of CWU, she earned her

bachelor's degree in 2012. She ended up getting her masters degree from CWU in 2015. CWU cheerleading is not technically a sport at CWU, and falls under the club category, but they are under the direction of the Athletic department.

"We get to use the NCAA ruling... but we don't get any funding and we're not categorized as a sport with the NCAA," Stephens said.

Picking up a routine in a small amount of time is something the team has to do sometimes. Sporting events can be back to back so the need to learn on the fly is something the team has to do according to Stephens. At the end of the tryouts, Stephens, along with a panel of three other judges sat down with each student trying out and asked a list of questions. The goal is to find out if they have their mind in the right place and the drive to be a Wildcat cheerleader, which, according to Stephens, is something

to be very proud of.

"I love these athletes. I love this team. I love this school," Stephens said. "I'm a huge fan of everything that this school has taught me."

According to Stephens, each student that tries out for the team has potential to be cut from the team, regardless of their history with the team. If a student was on the team last year it does not mean that they are automatically on the team the next year. Everyone is given a fair chance to make the team. There are not any weight or height requirements either. Nelson and Baydo both give a tip for new tryout hopefuls.

"The most important thing to remember, is that we love what we do, and you can't forget to remember that you love [cheerleading]," Nelson said.

CWU cheerleading has not been

able to travel with the sports teams, because of funding for the team according to Stephens. They definitely want to get more of the opportunities that other GNAC cheerleading teams get. Some of the things that other schools have are, fully funded uniforms, the ability to travel with the teams, and cheer their college on during games. Stephens believes that the team works very hard, and deserves more recognition. Baydo, believes that community service will help show the school, and the GNAC that they deserve more funding. Stephens enjoys supporting all athletics at CWU, and hopes to have more opportunities to better the team.

"I love Kelsey, she will push me until I can't go anymore. She comes to practice ready to work, and I love that I have a coach that is always making me better," Baydo said.



Photo courtesy of Lauren Schmitt

At the center of Nicholson Pavillon stands the 2019-20 CWU cheerleading team. Each student who made the team was given a red rose. Cheer preform at every basketball and football event, rain or shine.

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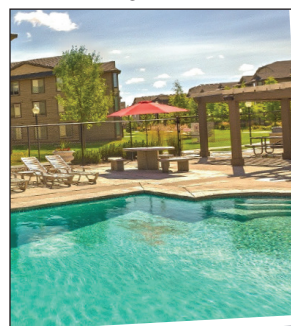
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Editor: Nick Jahnke

Rescue course offered by OPR



Nick Jahnke
Sports Editor

Learning how to stay afloat and navigate swift water in life-threatening situations is a requirement for those who work at OPR, according to OPR Shop Manager Andrew McDonald. OPR will host the Swift Water Rescue course beginning on Friday, April 19. OPR invites students who have the money and the interest to join them.

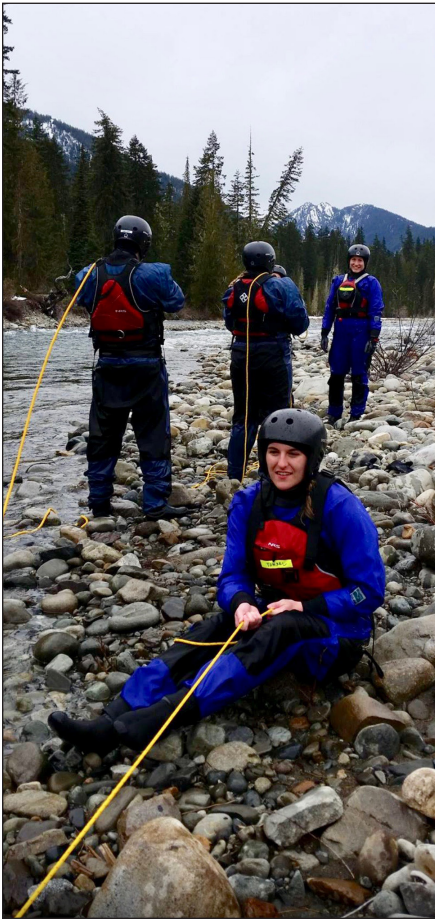
According to OPR Shop Attendant and Outdoor Guide Kayla Gallentine, the course is taught by instructors from Rescue 3 International. Rescue 3, according to their website, has been providing water rescue and safety training to the U.S and 50 other countries since 1979.

Gallentine said through the course, students will learn rope-rescue techniques including knots and pulley systems. She said the course teaches students how to help others who have lost control of themselves in moving water, as well as how to read and navigate the river when one finds themselves at its mercy.

“It feels really good to be able to feel in control and prepared when you’re going outdoors...and to know that you’re in good hands that can take care of you if anything happens,” Gallentine said.

The first day of the course is a classroom day, according to Gallentine. She said trainees will learn many of the techniques they will use in the river over the weekend, like how to work with rope, tie various knots, recover people in the river and recognize signs of hypothermia. Gallentine said beginning Saturday morning, trainees will take their newly learned skills to the Cle Elum River and put them to the test.

According to McDonald, there are a few pieces of equipment that are required in the river-training. He said that trainees must be wearing dry suits, helmets and personal floatation devices while in the river, all of which will be provided by OPR.



The swift water rescue course teaches various knots, pulley systems and craft-recovery techniques. Trainees also learn how to recover, retrieve and transport people who have lost control in the river. Gear is provided by OPR.

The river training in the Cle Elum River will take place at a spot just above Lake Cle Elum. McDonald said the spot is great for training because it features sections of slower-moving water, sections with light rapids and can be surveyed from a bridge that passes overhead.

McDonald said trainees don’t need to have river experience before taking the course. Although, he said the outdoor portion of the course can get physical, so those thinking of participating should be comfortable in the water.

According to Gallentine, at the end of the 3-day course trainees will earn their swift water rescue certification. She

said the certification is a prerequisite for jobs involving fast-moving water.

Whether students are thinking of becoming river guides with OPR, another company or simply want to pick up some new skills, the course costs \$350. Non-students, including alumni, staff and faculty, are also welcome to join. The cost for non-students is raised to \$425.

According to McDonald, registration for the course is still open. He said that OPR hasn’t set a deadline on registration. To register, visit OPR’s office just outside of the doors to the SURC. The course begins April 19 at 6 p.m. with the classroom session at OPR.

Photos courtesy of Ryan Murphy

Course Info

Where: OPR Office,
Cle Elum River

When:
April 19 @ 6:00 p.m.
April 20 @ 8:00 a.m.
April 21 @ 8:00 a.m.

Cost:
\$350 for students
\$425 for non-students

Editor: Nick Jahnke

Smith moves off the mound

Austin Lane

Staff Reporter

After her first three seasons as a pitcher, Kayla Smith is in the process of finishing her collegiate career as an outfielder.

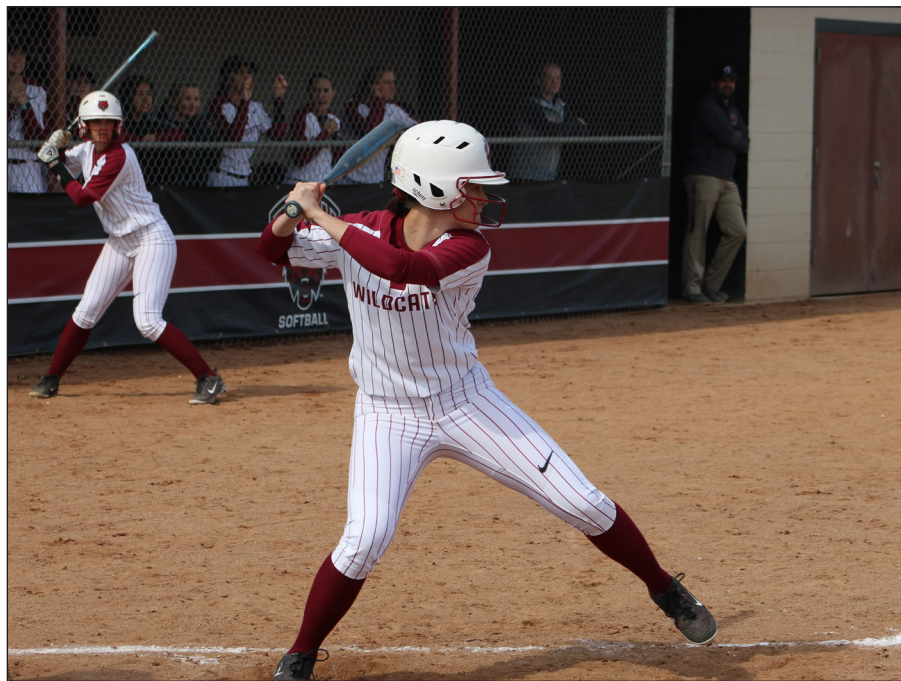
Smith made 69 appearances as a pitcher for CWU from 2016 to 2018 with a record of 26 wins, 13 losses and a 3.82 earned run average. Before that, Smith was a South Puget Sound League Pitcher of the Year during her sophomore, junior and senior seasons at White River High School. She also led White River to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association 2A State Championship game in 2015. White River lost the game 3-2 to W. F. West High School.

"We felt that with her athleticism, her speed, her ability to hit the ball, the way she's throwing... she could probably benefit our team more being an everyday player," head coach Mike Larabee said.

Smith has started in 36 out of the team's 38 games so far this season. Larabee also talked about Smith's abilities outside of the usual stats, such as batting average or number of hits.

"After the end of the fall we keep track of quality at-bats and she led our team in quality at-bats," Larabee said. "She just has a knack of putting the bat on the ball. Even her first three years when she didn't hit much we would let the pitchers jump in the cage and she would always barrel balls up."

Despite not taking an at-bat between her senior year of high school



Caleb Dunlop/CWU Athletics

Senior Kayla Smith is nearing the end of her collegiate softball career. She spent her first three seasons as a pitcher and will spend her final season in the outfield.

and the beginning of this season, Smith is fifth on the team in batting average, third in hits and second in doubles. Smith doesn't think too much about her success at the plate, as long as she has helped the team.

"I go up thinking this is the shot I have. I just gotta do the best with what I'm given and just not really try to think too much when I'm up there, just try to do what I can to help the team," Smith said.

Another player on the team that also changed positions, Paige Liikala, praised Smith for her ability to play the outfield naturally despite being a pitcher for three seasons.

"She has speed. She has the arm strength. It's like she's played there her whole entire life," Liikala said. "It's so natural for her to catch a ball and throw it on a line to each base."

Smith hasn't played outfield since she was in middle school. In spite of

the time difference, Smith has had two errors and eight assists this season. Getting an assist in the scorebook doesn't change with what your position is. The throwing distance between two players combining for an out is much larger in the outfield compared to an infielder or pitcher. Smith leads all outfielders on the team in the category.

Smith is a senior this year and said that she will miss everything here in Ellensburg. She said she will miss the people, the town, fellow athletes and the wind hitting her house and making it sound like it will blow over.

Smith is one of four seniors on the team. The seniors this season are Smith, catcher Kayla Ellis, second baseman Bethany Balucan and outfielder Rachael Johnson.

In her freshman year, Smith and the Wildcats made it through the GNAC tournament and NCAA West Regionals to make it to the West Super Regionals before losing to number one seed Humboldt State University.

In her final season, Smith said the senior class is capable of leading the younger members of the team to the GNAC tournament, sub-rvectionals and super-regionals because of their experience.

"We just wanna go as far as we possibly can," Smith said. "We know that experience and we just wanna try and get there one last time and have the underclassmen be able to experience that too. They've heard our stories about it, but they've never actually done it and it's not really something words do justice to."

Baseball travels to take on Western Oregon

Bryce Weedman

Senior Sports Reporter

CWU baseball will take on Western Oregon University in a four game series this coming weekend. On April 19 the Wildcats will take on the Western Oregon Wolves at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. On April 20 they will play the Wolves again at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. According to the GNAC website, the Wildcats are 14-20-1 and are in fifth place in the conference. The Wildcats are seven and a half games behind first place team, Montana State University Billings. Last weekend, April 12 and 14, the Wildcats lost three out of three games against St. Martins University. Head coach Desi Storey said there were some issues with the offense, but pitching seemed to do just fine. CWU has 12 games left in their season. Storey said the Western Oregon series will be important but that every game is important. Storey also said CWU's offense is starting to come together, and that is why the team is playing better. The GNAC website shows that the Wildcats could still win the conference. CWU has to beat Montana State University Billings first.

"I think for any team to gain six games on any team, some things need to really go in your favor," Storey said. "If we play good ball, and there's a hiccup, then we still have a chance."

CWU can still get a good seed in the GNAC tournament. According



Baseball has been working hard throughout the season. They will travel to Monmouth, OR to compete in a four game series against Western Oregon University for Easter weekend.

to Storey, even if they don't get the number one seed, he still feels like the Wildcats match up well against every team in the conference. According to Storey, there are players who continue to play well on the team. These players are sophomore Mitch Lesmeister, who is hitting .366 average, .504 slugging percentage and .483 on base percentage and junior Justin Hampson, who is hitting .303 average, .475 slugging percentage and .394 on base percentage.

"We've been sticking to our ap-

proach that coach wants, and we're just trying to put the ball in play, and hit it on the ground, cut the ball in half and just make things happen," Hampson said.

Storey believes you can only focus on the here and now. Western Oregon is next up for the Wildcats and they are sitting in second place in the GNAC just a game and half behind Montana State University Billings, who Storey said is a power hitting team. The Wolves have just as much



Caleb Dunlop/CWU Athletics

to play for as the Wildcats regardless of the standings, so the series will be important, according to Storey. Lesmeister said the Wildcats still have a good chance at winning the GNAC if they can play their best baseball.

"We just need to play our baseball. The second of the season is kind of like a new season," Lesmeister said. "I feel like we were in a lot of the games that we lost, so if we just fix the little mistakes and start clicking on offense, we can win a lot of games."

HYPE

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THU. APRIL 18
Career, Internship and Grad School Fair
11 a.m.-3 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
70+ employers, plus grad school reps.
Details at cwu.edu/career/2019spring

Loretta Ross: Reproductive Justice as Human Rights
6 p.m. • SURC Theatre
Co-founder and national coordinator of the Sister Song Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

E-Gaming: Rocket League
5:30-10 p.m. • SURC
Pool play followed by knockout round.
Register at imleagues.com/cwu

Open Mic Night
7:30 sign up, 8 p.m. start • 1891 Bistro
Share your talent, or enjoy the show!

FRIDAY, APRIL 19
Unpacked & Rebooted: Spoon Theory Beta Testing
12:30-2:30 p.m. • Samuelson 170
Beta testing session for an interactive game that teaches how different identities affect everyday lives.

FRI - SUN, APRIL 19-21
CWU College Rodeo
Kittitas County Rodeo Grounds
Fri/Sat: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
Sun: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20
46th Annual Yakima River Cleanup
9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. • Leaves from SURC East Patio. takeactioncwu.com.

African Night with CASA
5 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Free
Central's African Student Association performances, food and music.

Four Twenty
7 p.m. • Cornerstone Pie • Free
Music, food and info about marijuana.

MONDAY, APRIL 22
Monday Movie Madness: Glass
7 & 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre • Free/\$3

TUESDAY, APRIL 23
General Education Info Session
3-4 p.m. • SURC Theatre

Rock Against Rape
5-8 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
Live music, info, community!

Lion Rock Visiting Writer Series: Kristiana Kahakauwila
12-1 p.m. Craft Talk
6 p.m. Reading/book signing
Brooks Library, 2nd floor commons

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24
Denim Day
Wear denim to show support and stand with survivors of sexual assault.


ASCWU Candidate Public Debate
12 p.m. • SURC Theatre
Listen to candidates debate on important topics and share their goals for next year.

Family Literacy Night
6 p.m. • Brooks Library 288
Bring the family for reading, snacks and a chance to pick out a free book.


TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW
CWU Diversity Awards
CWU Family Weekend
CWU Theatre Arts
and more!
cwu.edu/tickets

#CWUHYPE











ENGAGEMENT

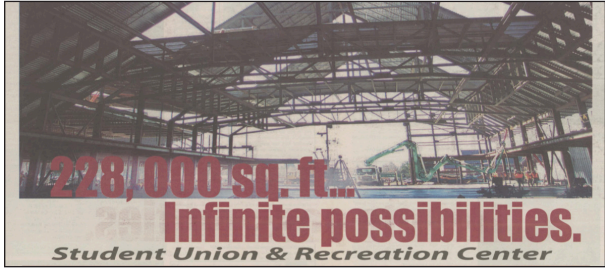


Editor: Hanson Lee

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
					
71/49	59/40	63/41	64/42	62/41	63/42
Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and winds around 8 mph.					
Friday: A.M. clouds and P.M. sun with a 20 percent chance of rain and winds around 18 mph.					
Saturday: Mostly sunny with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 8 mph.					
Sunday: Partly cloudy with a 0 percent chance of rain and winds around 10 mph.					
Monday: A.M. showers with a 40 percent chance of rain and winds around 13 mph.					
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of rain and winds around 11 mph.					
<i>Data sourced from weather.com. Information current as of publication date. Weather subject to change.</i>					

This week in Observer history



On April 21, 2005, The SURC's construction and facilities were featured as a high point for the following year. Highly anticipated facilities included the dining area, the SURC Pit and the rock climbing wall.


The building eventually debuted the following year to CWU students and faculty alike.



"Hey, I'm the drinking age somewhere."

By Teagan Kimbro

4/20



Sativa:

Provides a more energetic and euphoric experience

Commonly used during the day


Indica:

Best for relaxation and calming down

Commonly used at night

Hybrid:

A combination of both



Firehouse

Everyday - 10% veterans discount


Tuesday - 10% off all Phat Panda products & 10% student discount

Wednesday - \$11 grams of concentrates & \$15 eighths of flower

Friday - 20% of products by the visiting vendor

Saturday - \$17 eighths of flower

Sunday - 10% off \$17 eighths of flower



Other dispensaries in Ellensburg include:

Cannabis Central

Green Shelf

Graphics by Will Yi

Submit a question

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

Call for reader work

Do you have a letter to the editor or a burning opinion you want published?

We would love your work!

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M - Tu 5-6 p.m. for inquiries.

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